

## LITERARY NOTES.

John B. Alden's magazine, "Choice Literature," has in its coming number an article on "Arthur, the Mythic King," by Charles Stubbs, M.A., Mr. Stubbs thinks that Arthur was a petty prince of Devon, whose wife, Guinevere, was carried off by a prince of North Wales and recovered after a year's fighting.

The memoirs of Count Beust will be published early next year, simultaneously at Paris and Stuttgart. They extend over thirty-five years, and are reported to be full of facts worth reading. It is not improbable that an English edition will quickly follow the original issue.

According to the "Publishers' Weekly," Professor Sayce says that the late Nicholas Trübner has left behind him a MS. on the history of the book trade in the classical period, a subject in which he had been interested from his earliest boyhood. He had collected an enormous amount of material for the work, and from time to time spoke to his friends of publishing it as soon as he could finish it in accordance with the demands of a somewhat fastidious taste.

"The Home in Poetry," is the title of a compilation that Mrs. Laura C. Holloway has prepared for Funk & Wagnall's standard library. It contains over two hundred poems.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. announce as in press "Great Truths by Great Authors," a dictionary of aids to reference, quotations of maxims, metaphors, counsels, etc., selected from writers of all ages and both hemispheres.

Clark Russell is at work upon another sea story. It is to be called "A Strange Voyage."

Mrs. Harper & Brothers will shortly publish a new edition of the poetical works of Lord Tennyson, with a biographical introduction by Miss Anna Thackeray, a complete index and a list of the various editions.

The Austrian traveller, Herr von Hesse-Wartegg, has just returned to Europe. From a tour of several months duration through Mexico and the less known Republics of Central America, where he made a careful survey of the lake districts of Chapala and Pascuaro, he intends to publish the results in a comprehensive work on Central America.

In a recent letter to "The London World" the Rev. E. Paxton Hood asserted that "the American churches have not been rich in hymn writers." This drew out a communication from another clergyman who, while agreeing with Mr. Hood, called attention to the fact that an English Hymnal now in use in some hundreds of congregations in Great Britain contains hymns by no less than twenty-four American writers.

For the best essay on "Self-supporting Employment for Ladies in the Southern States," Mr. Joseph M. Blair of Richmond, has offered \$25 or a gold medal of that value, and the contestants are to forward their articles to George W. Mayo, secretary, Richmond, Virginia, before the middle of October.

Miss Freer is writing a life of her father, the late Sir Battle Freer, for the "Transactions" of the Royal Historical Society. The first instalment will appear in November.

It is reported by "The Academy" that an effort is being made to establish a Scottish periodical of the higher order, consisting of fiction, poetry, and articles on general subjects.

In a comparison of Mr. Blaine's work with Benton's "Thirty Years in the United States Senate," the "Rochester Democrat" says: "Mr. Blaine is a stronger, clearer and more judicial writer than the Missouri senator. Mr. Benton was insufferably egotistical and somewhat tawdry and bombastic in style. He had not Mr. Blaine's pose or historical perspective. Moreover, he did not digest his materials and bring forth a fresh, original and compact narrative. Compared with the "Twenty Years of Congress," his work is fabley, incoherent and filled with scraps of Congressional debates. It is valuable, however, but it is not a great history like Mr. Blaine's work."

Alfred A. Frey, of the Astor Library, is preparing a comprehensive dictionary of pseudonyms which he calls "Maques," a Dictionary of Literary Disguises." It aims to give the false names under which American, English, French, German, Dutch and Spanish authors have written, and embraces from 14,000 to 16,000 titles.

**MATTHEW ARNOLD'S ESTIMATE OF GEORGE SAND.**

His *Letter to the Full Mall Gazette*.

To-day a statue of George Sand is unveiled at Paris. The author of *Madame Bovary* and *Indiana*, who she lived, would hardly approve a statue, but the present is not her hour, and the excuses for taking part in to-day's ceremony are not so good as those of the author of *Indiana*. As it is, we wait and wait, and wait art of Balzac, which Mr. Daniel and other disciples are continuing out of the work of humanitarians and libertines like George Sand and others. We must stand and wait it is worth, and must pay the penalty of its defects. George Sand has admirably stated the cause of her own life in her *Life of a Woman*, and the enthusiasm for beauty, and he knew nothing of them to start with. The absence of moral education, and the want of religious training, were the chief faults of her life. The religious philosophy of the time was not materialist. In its harsh and rigid restraints it left out the chapter of duty, although it made more logical and more exacting demands of freedom than that theory was not all, and that philosophy must be a virtue, a religion, a social law."

Of George Sand herself too, we may say that she died not because that theory is not all, and her path to death must be a virtuous, a social law. Her work, like Rousseau's, has faults, and she has committed sins, faults of extravagance, faults of repetition, faults of extravagance, but do not let us despise ourselves. Do not let us suppose that the work of Rousseau and George Sand is not good, and the love of beauty, and not, according to the approved religion of present, by a disinterested curiosity. Do not let us suppose that the work of the results is nothing but a waste of time. The author of *Indiana* and *Madame Bovary* will stand, because it is implied by a disinterested curiosity.

The last with the work which endures, has not been a success. It is a profound failure. In the nature of disinterested curiosity, a fervent desire of the work of Balzac. He even puts his name in evidence with that of Shakespeare, and appears to be jealous of him. The motive of Shakespeare's production is the same as that of most of the authors of the Elizabethan National Committee and others.

**IT IS ADMIRABLE.**

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